(b) The un-audited figures for the half year ending 30-9-2003 shows an approximate profit of more than Rs.2000 crores which is an improvement.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above there is improvement in profit during the current year. However the fall in profit in 2002-03 was occasioned by very high provisioning in salary expenses for absorption of Group 'B' officers and creation of other salary and leave related liabilities. Such provisioning along with deferred tax liability become mandatory as per Accounting Standards. Additional depreciation has also been impacting profit. It may be pointed out that due to fast decline in Tariff an increase in costs, it is difficult to achieve the same level of profit of Rs. 6312 crores attained in the year 2001-02.

Uniform Licence Scheme

219. SHRI N.R. DASARI: SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to adopt uniform licensing schemes to bring all the licence holders under one regime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, *inter-alia,* based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), an addendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-1999) has been issued in November, 2003, to provide for the following categories of licences for Telecommunication services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permiting Licensee to provide all Telecommunication/Telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology.

(ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

The said addendum has also been put up on DoT website http://www.dotindia.com.

The following major steps have been taken for implementation of the said two Licences:

(i) Guidelines for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Service Licence were issued on 11th November, 2003.

(ii) As on 31.11.2003, based on their request and payment of additional entry fees, Basic Service operators in respect of 27 Basic Service Licenses, have been migrated to Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services, in terms of the said guidelines.

(iii) As on 30.11.2003, 12 letters of intent for grant of Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licence have been issued against fresh applications.

(iv) TRAI has issued a consultation paper on 15th November, 2003 for formulating their recommendations on terms and conditions for "Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services". Written comments of the various stake holders have been invited on the same by TRAI by 7th December, 2003.

Export of electronic and computer software/services

† 220. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPATRAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic computer software and service were exported to one hundred and eighty one countries during the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that seventy five per cent export has been made to three countries *viz.* USA, England and Germany, and

(c) if so, the value of exports to the said countries, separately and the percentage of this value of total export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.